



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHANGES ADOPTED FOR HADDOCK AND COD FISHERIES

The Department of the Interior announced today that revised regulations governing the taking of haddock within Subarea 5 of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean by trawl fishermen under the jurisdiction of the United States have been adopted and will become effective on October 1, 1957.

The changes were recommended by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, and involve mesh regulations for conservation purposes which permit the escape of small haddock and cod for possible capture later when they are of a more profitable size.

Under existing regulations, haddock fishermen operating off the New England coast are required to use nets with mesh no smaller than four and a half inches, but fishermen seeking other species who incidentally catch some haddock are exempt from the net restriction if their haddock take is less than 5,000 pounds or 10 percent of the total catch per trip. Under the revised regulations they also can be exempted from the net size limit if the take of haddock in their operations does not exceed 10 percent of all trawl-caught fish during any one year.

Cod fishermen for the first time are brought under the regulations and they will also be required to use nets with mesh no smaller than four and a half inches. Exemption rules similar to those for haddock will apply to the taking of cod incidentally with other species.

This annual exemption long has been desired by a large number of the New England trawl fleet operators who primarily fish for species other than haddock. Occasionally, because of weather, or other factors which reduced the balance of their normal catch, they had difficulty keeping within the trip exemption of 5,000 pounds of haddock or 10 percent of all the fish taken on the particular fishing trip. However, their annual average catch of haddock was under 10 percent of the total take, and an alternative based upon the annual catch was requested.

Subarea 5 which is involved is an area of the high seas lying off the coast of New England and is one of five separately described areas of the high seas covered by the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, signed at Washington on February 8, 1949.

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